(c) the amount spent by the Indian Railways on safety during the last five years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) A total amount of Rs. 5000 crore is proposed to be raised through levy of safety surcharge on passenger fares towards a non-lapsable Railway Safety Fund over a period of six years.

(b) The surcharge so collected, alongwith the contribution made by the Ministry of Finance, would be utilised for replacement/renewal of overaged assets. Part of this Fund would also be spent on safety enhancement measures.

(c) The amount spent by the Indian Railways on Safety during the last five years is as under:—

(Rs. in Crore)

Year	Total Expenditure
1996-97	2007.66
1997-98	2245.77
1998-99	2313.04
1999-2000	2656.13
2000-01	2888.62

Demolition of educational institutes by the Railways in Maharashtra

†722. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of educational institutes demolished by the Railways in Maharashtra during the last three years;

(b) the number of such cases pending in different courts at present;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the numbers and details of cases decided in favour of the Railways, the cases decided against the Railways and the cases in which decisions are pending;

(d) whether Government would consider the proposals for out-of-court settlement, if proposed;

(e) if so, the basis for the same; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) 2 structures at Kalyan, Mumbai i.e. one in Kalyan Railway colony, and one near Kalyan Railway yard have been demolished in 1998, being unauthorised structures.

(b) One.

(c) No case has been decided either in favour or against the Railways. One case pertaining to demolition at Kalyan, Mumbai is pending in Court at present.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) Out of court settlement will not be in Railways' interest.

Railway Zonal General Managers' Financial Powers

723. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision has been taken recently to enhance, to nearly double, the limit of the Zonal General Managers' financial powers; and

(b) if so, the details of the enhanced limits proposed and the precise reasons/justification therefor, especially in the light of the contrary views of several committees and experts who have commented adversely against excessive concentration of powers in the Railway Board and suggested decentralisation of the decision-making process?